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CONFIDENTIAL

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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REPORT

S.1 Special Branch ~~Station.~~ *File No.* ..... *Date* July 25, 1941.

SUBJECT: ANNE MARY BEAUMONT and HILDA EVELYN EVANS - applicants for position of Secretary to Commissioner of Police

Anne Mary BEAUMONT nee Burns was born of British parents at Gateshead-on-Tyne, England, on February 24, 1901.

She came to Shanghai about twenty years ago as the wife of L. Beaumont, electrical engineer of the Shanghai Municipal Electricity Department and later the Shanghai Power Company.

About nine years ago her husband who had been drinking heavily and commenced associating with other women was discharged from the Power Company. Mrs. Beaumont who had left him sometime previously, received part of her husband's superannuation fund through the efforts of the Company and immediately instituted divorce proceedings in which she was successful. Her husband returned to England but she decided to stay and with the remaining money left to her took up a course in shorthand, typing and commercial work. She then obtained a secretarial position with the Sherwin Williams Paint Company, 687 Broadway East, and was there between 1934 and 1937. At the outbreak of hostilities this firm closed down and on her return to Shanghai had not re-opened. During 1938 she was working for the R.C.A. Victor Company and the following year obtained a secretarial position with Mr.E.W. James of Cameron & Co., Kobe. Mr. James is a well known Kobe resident whose firm has controlling interests in the zinc industry in Japan. He and his brother were

D.D. to C.P. 26/7

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
SPECIAL BRANCH

FM. 2
G. 850-1-44

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

- 2 -

Station. File No. Date

SUBJECT:

questioned by the Police in Japan when a number of other British subjects of long residence in Japan were arrested or taken to Police Stations for questioning. This circumstance together with the fact that life in Kobe was uncongenial for a European woman prompted Mrs. Beaumont to leave. It is understood that Mr. E.W. James thought very highly of Mrs. Beaumont and he is known to have sent her on business trips to Shanghai and Manila.

Since March 1940 Mrs. Beaumont has been employed in Geo. McBain & Co., No.1 The Bund, and is still working there at present.

She is of a very quiet disposition and does not drink except in a very limited manner. Her social activities are confined to outings with her brother, Mr. Burns, engineer of the Power Company, and his wife and attendance at occasional parties given by various friends, chiefly Power Company officials. About seven years previously she is said to have been associating with a man but nothing eventuated and since then she has had no male company except that of her brother and purely friends.

Her reason for wishing to leave Geo. McBain is that she feels her position to be somewhat insecure to the extent that should business in that firm fall off considerably she would be made a victim of retrenchment.

Nothing is known to her detriment in Police records.

FM. 2
C. 850-1-41

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

Station. *File No.*..... *Date*.....

SUBJECT:

Hilda Evelyn EVANS nee MARGERISON was born of British parents at Bromborough Pool, Birkenhead, England, on October 31st, 1904.

Her father J. Margerison was lately manager of Prices Candle Factory, Shanghai, but has now retired after more than thirty years service with the Asiatic Petroleum Company, parent organization. Margerison spent most of his service in Johannesburg, South Africa, where applicant was brought up. She married a Norwegian named Knudsen in South Africa but left him owing to his drunkenness and came out to Shanghai at the invitation of her father in 1937. Meanwhile, she instituted divorce proceedings against her husband and a decree absolute was granted by the Supreme Court of South Africa on September 11th, 1939.

Applicant met her present husband T.J. Evans while employed at Reiss Bradley & Co., 88 Museum Road, where she has been working from June 1937 until the present day except for an interval when a child was born to her and Evans, after their marriage in 1939. T.J. Evans has his own business as importer and exporter at 34 Museum Road and deals chiefly in Australian and New Zealand wools and cloth. He has been in the same business in Shanghai for many years.

Mrs. Evans is said not to drink and both she and her husband are very quiet living, not indulging in social pleasures to any great extent. Her husband's only apparent interest outside work is golf and she appears to be wrapped up in her work and home. They

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
SPECIAL BRANCH

FM. 2
C. 950-3-41

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

- 4 -

Station. *File No.*..... *Date*.....

SUBJECT:

are on friendly terms with Mr. I.T. Morris, Assistant Registrar of the British Consular Court, and Mr. J.R. Jones, ex-Secretary General of the S.M.C.

Mrs. Evans is at present in charge of the Office Equipment Department of Reiss Bradley & Co. and her reason for wishing to leave is because she is doing a job formerly carried out by a man but is still receiving a secretary-stenographer's pay.

Nothing is known to her detriment in Police records.

R. W. MacCallie.

D. S. I.

A. C. (Special Branch)